

JAN 10 1956

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00001R000300130025-4

## Briton Sees 'Arch Spy' P. W. in China

HONG KONG, Jan. 9 (AP).—

John Thomas Downey, an American who is serving a life sentence in Communist China for alleged spying, was interviewed by British Charge d'Affaires Cor O'Neill at Peiping last month.

Mr. Downey has been described by the Chinese Communists as "the arch-criminal of all the American prisoners." Reports reaching Hong Kong said he had written a letter asking to see the British representative in Red China.

Official sources here, both British and American, said there has been no official word about the visit. It has been known here

for some time that Mr. O'Neill was not being allowed to visit imprisoned Americans as freely as he wished.

Mr. Downey, an Army civilian employee from New Britain, Conn., was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Chinese Communists on Nov. 23, 1954. The American government says he was an authorized passenger on a plane bound from Seoul to Japan which disappeared.

### Say They Dropped Supplies

The Communists charged that Mr. Downey and another American civilian, Richard Henry Fecteau, of Lynn, Mass., were

dropping supplies to anti-Communist agents in Manchuria when the plane was shot down on Nov. 29, 1952. Mr. Fecteau was sentenced to twenty years.

The two were sentenced together with eleven United States Air Force men who were released last August.

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT